United Nations A/53/609/Add.5

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 December 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 94 (e)

Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Report of the Second Committee*

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Addendum

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 94 (see A/53/609, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 26th and 42nd meetings, on 28 October and 1 December 1998. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/53/SR.26 and 42).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/53/L.16 and A/C.2/53/L.52

2. At the 26th meeting, on 28 October, at the request of the representative of Indonesia, the representative of Benin, on behalf of the sponsors, namely, the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/53/L.16), which read:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in seven parts, under the symbol A/53/609 and Add.1–6.

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"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997 and other relevant resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

"*Noting with satisfaction* that a great number of States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention, and confirming its globality and the worldwide support it enjoys,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Senegal for the generous offer to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to all bilateral and multilateral contributors, including intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, for the contribution and the support they provided to the interim secretariat of the Convention,

"*Noting with appreciation* the work of the interim secretariat in facilitating the effective implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional and regional levels,

"*Looking forward* to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing desertification and drought issues in the light of the provisions of the Convention, as well as of the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session, held in Rome in October 1997,

"*Noting* the statement made by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the progress made by the interim secretariat and the parties to the Convention, as well as by non-governmental organizations, in implementing the provisions of the Convention,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolution 52/198, in particular paragraph 12 thereof,

"1. *Welcomes* the convening of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Dakar, Senegal, from 30 November to 11 December 1998, in accordance with paragraph 19 of its resolution 52/198;

"2. *Calls upon* all States and other actors to contribute to the successful outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties at Dakar;

"3. *Calls upon* the remaining States to ratify or accede to the Convention, as soon as possible;

"4. *Takes note* of the fact that the Convention secretariat and the Federal Government of Germany signed the host agreement on 18 August 1998, which entered into force on 23 October 1998, and invites the host Government to contribute fully to the relocation of the secretariat in Bonn and its effective functioning;

"5. *Expresses deep concern and notes with regret* that the Global Mechanism did not begin operating on 1 January 1998, as decided by the Conference of the Parties at its first session;

"6. *Urges* all Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full in the first month of each year, starting on 1 January 1999, the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing

work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

"7. *Reiterates its appeal* to Governments, all interested organizations and the private sector to urgently and effectively make the voluntary contributions necessary to ensure the operationalization of the Global Mechanism no later than 1 January 1999;

"8. *Urges* Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund to be established by 1 January 1999, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;

"9. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular developed countries and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions and all other interested actors, to support the efforts of affected developing countries in the processes of elaboration and implementation of action programmes to combat desertification, including the programme of cooperation between Africa and Asia adopted at Niamey on 5 September 1997, as well as the platform of interregional cooperation between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean adopted at Recife, Brazil, on 16 October 1998, by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance;

"10. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its second session, in Dakar, to facilitate and launch the process of the elaboration and negotiation of an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the Eastern and Central European region, with a view to finalizing it as soon as possible;

"11. *Reaffirms* its decision, in conformity with paragraph 17 of its resolution 52/198, to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998–1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium, taking into account the request of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, held in Rome in October 1997;

"12. *Encourages* the Conferences of the Parties to and the permanent secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa to examine appropriate opportunities and measures to strengthen complementarities and ecological linkages between the three Conventions;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as on measures taken for the implementation of decisions adopted by the Conference at that session;

"14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa'."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, David Prendergast (Jamaica), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/53/L.52), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.16.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.52 (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/53/SR.42).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.52, draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.16 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/198 of 18 December 1997 and other relevant resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,[1]

Reiterating its decision, in conformity with paragraph 17 of its resolution 52/198, to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998–1999 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies[2] envisaged for that biennium, taking into account the request of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, held in Rome in October 1997,

Noting with satisfaction that a great number of States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention, and confirming its globality and the worldwide support it enjoys,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Senegal for the generous offer to host the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Secretary-General and to all bilateral and multilateral contributors, including intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations, for the contribution and the support they provided to the interim secretariat of the Convention,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the interim secretariat in contributing to the ratification and implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional and regional levels, including in promoting public awareness,

Looking forward to the continued efforts of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing desertification and drought issues in the light of the provisions of the Convention, as well as of the decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session,

[1] A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

[2] As defined in accordance with articles 22, paragraph (c), and 24 of the Convention.

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[3] on the implementation of Assembly resolution 52/198, submitted in accordance with paragraph 21 thereof, and noting in this context the statement made on 22 October 1998 to the Second Committee of the General Assembly by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the progress made by all actors in implementing the provisions of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Dakar from 30 November to 11 December 1998, in accordance with paragraph 19 of its resolution 52/198;

2. *Calls upon* all States and other actors to contribute to the successful outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. *Also calls upon* all countries that are not yet parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Convention as soon as possible;

4. *Notes* that the United Nations, the Convention secretariat and the Government of Germany signed a headquarters agreement on 18 August 1998, which will be before the Conference of the Parties at its second session for adoption, subject to ratification by the German Parliament;

5. *Invites* the host Government and the Convention secretariat to contribute fully to the relocation of the secretariat and its effective functioning at Bonn, and also invites the secretariat to continue its efforts with a view to finalizing the relocation as soon as possible;

6. *Notes with concern* that the Global Mechanism did not begin operating on 1 January 1998;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts made by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to establish the framework for the separate identity of the Global Mechanism within the Fund, and looks forward to a prompt starting of its activities, in conformity with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties at its first session;

8. *Urges* all States parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full on or before 1 January of each year, starting in 1999, the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,[4] so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies, the permanent secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the financial support already provided on a voluntary basis by some States parties, and reiterates its appeal to Governments, all interested organizations and the private sector to make promptly further voluntary contributions in support of the activities and functioning of the Global Mechanism;

10. *Calls upon* Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, to be established by 1 January 1999 in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties;[5]

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[3] A/53/516.

[4] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, para. 14.

[5] ICCD/COP(1)/11/Add.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex..

11. *Also calls upon* developing country parties to the Convention to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of national action programmes, and calls for the implementation of those adopted through, *inter alia*, the conclusion of partnership agreements, including consideration of the contributions of non-governmental organizations;

12. *Calls upon* the international community, in particular developed countries and the United Nations system, and invites the multilateral financial institutions and all other interested actors, to support the efforts of affected developing countries in the process of elaborating and implementing action programmes to combat desertification, including, as appropriate, interregional programmes and platforms of cooperation, by providing them with financial resources and other forms of assistance;

13. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its second session to facilitate and launch the process of elaborating and negotiating an additional regional implementation annex to the Convention for the countries of the Eastern and Central European region, with a view to finalizing it as soon as possible;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the outcome of the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as on measures taken for the implementation of decisions adopted by the Conference at that session;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa".